Use of foreign exchange earnings by exporters to import consumer goods

2346: SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to allow exporter to use over 5 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings to import consumer goods after receipt of sanction from the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, details of the said plan;

(c) what are the details of the said amount utilised item-wise;

(d) whether I.M.F. is also convassing for import of consumer goods out of foreign exchange income of exporters;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) whether Government would consider such suggestion of I.M.F.; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Special import Licence Scheme Permits, *inter-alia*, import of certain consumer goods/consumer durables, which are otherwise covered in the Negative List of Imports of the Exim Policy. This benefit is allowed for Deemed Exports, Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and manufacturers who have acquired internationally recognised certification of quantity.

(c) Statistical data relating to import of items against individuals import licences is not maintained.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF SPICES

2347. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity and value of export of spices during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large untapped export market for spices and if so, what special efforts are being made by Govt. to increase the export of spices;

(c) whether it is a fact that the productivity level of most of the spices in India is below the level of many spice producing countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details and whether any steps are being taken by the Spices Board to boost the productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Quantity and value of total spices exported during 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as follows:—

Year	Qty. (MT)	Val. (Rs. Cr.)
1991-92	1,30,567	362.04
1992-93 (April-January)	84,040	263.13